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Senate

The Senate met at 12 noon and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. STEVENS).

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Once again, today's prayer will be offered by the guest Chaplain, Rev. Campbell Gillon of Georgetown Presbyterian Church.

PRAYER

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Lord God, in a world where power usually rules by subjection and oppression, we stand before Thee whose rule, if lovingly accepted, raises us to a new freedom of living and spirit of hope.

We remember the story of Moses giving the Pharaoh Thy word, which was not just a plea for freedom—"Let my people go!", but "Let my people go that they may worship Me, serve Me!"—freedom for a purpose.

Teach us, O God, that when freedom is made an end in itself, and not the means to a greater end, it easily degenerates into license and self pleasing. The finale is not freedom, but community destroyed and people self-enslaved.

Lord, we know that those Israelites, when freed, were given by Thee in the wilderness a purpose—to live by those basic commandments, rules for peace and harmony. These we neglect at our peril. For if no divine nature, name, and day is shown reverence and there is not respect for parents, life, relationships, property, and truth, then a society disintegrates from within, since there is no reverence and respect for anything but the solitary self.

Lord God, unless Thou build humanity's house, those who try labor in vain. Unless Thou guard a civilization's city, its protectors are caught napping. So, grant grace to this elected body of Senators, leaders in this superpower, that they may be led to use aright our freedom's dear-bought opportunities, aware of ends beyond the material and the visions that make life noble. This

we ask in the name of love revealed. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

SCHEDULE

Mr. FRIST. Mr. President, today the Senate will be in a period of morning business until 1 p.m. At 1 o'clock, the Senate will then resume consideration of S. 14, the Energy bill. The chairman and the ranking member will be here and will be prepared for Members to come forward with their amendments over the course of today. This is an important piece of legislation that will enhance the energy security of this Nation. I expect that the Senate will make substantial progress on this important bill this week.

As I announced previously, no roll-call votes will occur during today's session. However, Members will be able to offer amendments. I encourage them to do so. Any votes ordered on those amendments will be scheduled to occur during tomorrow's session.

Also this week the Senate will need to address the Defense authorization bill that will be received from the House shortly. Prior to the recess, we finished action on the Senate bill; however, we still need to dispose of a few remaining amendments prior to going to conference with the House. That should take only a couple of hours. We will likely consider that bill one night this week after we spend the day on the

consideration of the Energy bill. I will keep my colleagues advised as to what evening that will be.

In addition, we have continued to try to reach agreements on the FAA reauthorization and the State Department reauthorization bills. At some point we will have to proceed to those matters even if we are unable to reach a consent agreement for their consideration.

I should also mention there are a number of Executive Calendar nominations that have been pending for a long period of time. Oftentimes these nominations get caught up in other issues. Again, at some point, I will proceed to the consideration of those nominations that have been pending for a while. If Members want to debate a particular nominee, they will need to come to the Senate floor to do so.

In addition to the items I just mentioned, we have a number of other important issues to address, one of which is prescription drug benefits and strengthening and improving our Medicare Program for 35 million seniors and a million individuals with disabilities. I have stated for a number of weeks—in fact, for the last couple of months—that we will be addressing this particular issue, an issue that is important to the American people, both those who are seniors now, those soon to be seniors, and future generations, and we will be addressing that this month. Much of that activity begins in the Finance Committee this week—in fact, today there are discussions going on—and each and every day from now until we bring it to the floor. We plan on bringing that to the floor in 2 weeks.

Having said that, I look forward to a busy and productive legislative period prior to the next scheduled adjournment. A number of people are coming back into town today after a period of a week being primarily at their homes with their constituencies across the United States of America. We are hoping right into the Energy bill today

● This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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